Removal of Fare Difference Between IA and Other Aviation Companies

661. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fare of Indian Airlines is higher as compared to that of other aviation companies of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to end the said difference; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) A comprehensive study has not been done. A limited sample study of selected sectors has revealed that Indian Airlines fares are lower than the fares in other countries on the domestic sectors having similar distances.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Corporatisation of Airports

662. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government plans to corporatise the five major airports in our country; and

(b) when will the plan of this new structure be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to corporatise the airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai. This decision is under review with regard to modalities.

Removal of Defective Systems by AAI

663. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "AAI move fails to remove ills of system" as reported in the Statesman dated 3.10.99;

(b) if so, whether the defects came to the notice of AAI on various systems during the plane accidents in the last one year have not been rectified; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All the defects which came to the notice of Airports Authority of India have been rectified. The new system was commissioned after prolonged tests and Trials and since its commissioning, there has been no system failure nor any defect noticed that could contribute to any aircraft incident. The automation system in use provides adequate safety alerts that help in Air Traffic Management.

Improvement of Duty-Free Shops at International Airports

664. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how Government plan to improve the duty-free shops at different International airports in the country; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are losing crores in revenue because of inefficient ITDC outlets?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) is currently licensed to run Duty Free Shops at international airports. ITDC has planned to improve the duty free shops and enlarge the product range with the advice of an internationally renowned Consultant.

(b) No, Sir.

Provision of Public Telephone Facility at Airports

665. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public booths of STD facilities are not available in certain Airports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide public telephone facility in the Airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) STD facilities are available at all international airports and a large number of domestic airports . Provision of STD